

Mycenae, Schliemann

A lot of people don't understand that there were thousands of people facing off against the National Guard. The same scenario had been playing all weekend. And the students that got shot were up over a hill behind a Building. There were many guardsmen deployed ~~to~~ the campus, but only a handful did this crime.

A lot of people don't realize this. They think that the guardsmen were being overwhelmed by hordes of screaming, long-haired radicals who were absolutely tearing those guardsmen's limb from limb. And that is not what happened. Quite the opposite. I think the shootings were a very calculated move, designed for certain specific political, not military, purposes. It was, "We're going to get out there and win over these hearts and minds because we're going to scare the shit out of these people. We're going to make every college kid in the country think that they are going to get shot dead if they demonstrate against the war." I think that was a lot of the purpose of it.

At the time, I didn't see Kent State as ending anything; I thought that it was raising things to a new level. With Jackson State happening right on the heels of it, it seemed to me that is ~~was~~ ^{was} very was a very clear message to the radical left - the main support of which came from university students: "If you keep opposing us so vocally, we are going to kill you."

Ruth Gibson
Student Kent State
May 4, 1970
member of the "Kent 25"

People who oppose the system tend to get smashed, and that is what we found out.

We weren't successful in bringing about the great revolutionary change; but we had it in our hearts that day, and I think there are many of us still who have that in our hearts. Maybe we're the ~~real~~ true patriots - ...
~~Maybe~~ though I hate to use that word. Maybe we're the real lovers of our country and our people and the real lovers of freedom and democracy -